

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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CLASSIFICATION

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MESSAGE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

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2. EGYPT-LIBYA: [REDACTED] EGYPT AND LIBYA CONTINUE TO OBSERVE A DE
 FACTO TRUCE, WHILE A PRISONER EXCHANGE REPORTEDLY IS BEING
 NEGOTIATED, THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT NEITHER SIDE IS
 SERIOUSLY SEEKING A PERMANENT TRUCE. QADHAFI THUS FAR APPEARS
 TO HAVE GAINED A GREAT DEAL OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL MILEAGE FROM

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THE CONFLICT WITH EGYPT. FOR THEIR PART, THE EGYPTIANS ARE CLEARLY KEEPING THEIR OPTIONS OPEN TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION AGAINST LIBYA.Y

██████████ //PRESIDENT QADHAFI STILL HAS NOT RESPONDED TO EGYPT'S UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A CEASE-FIRE AND APPARENTLY INTENDS TO RESIST DOING SO.//Y

██████████ //THE EGYPTIANS REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THAT QADHAFI IS SIMPLY TRYING TO BUY TIME IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE LIBYAN PUBLIC AND MILITARY FOR A RETALIATORY STRIKE AGAINST EGYPT. QADHAFI IS PROBABLY EQUALLY SUSPICIOUS OF THE EGYPTIANS; HE BELIEVES IN ANY CASE THAT HE HAS INTERNATIONAL SYMPATHY ON HIS SIDE AND THAT HE CAN WIN THE POLITICAL WAR, IF NOT THE MILITARY BATTLE.//Y

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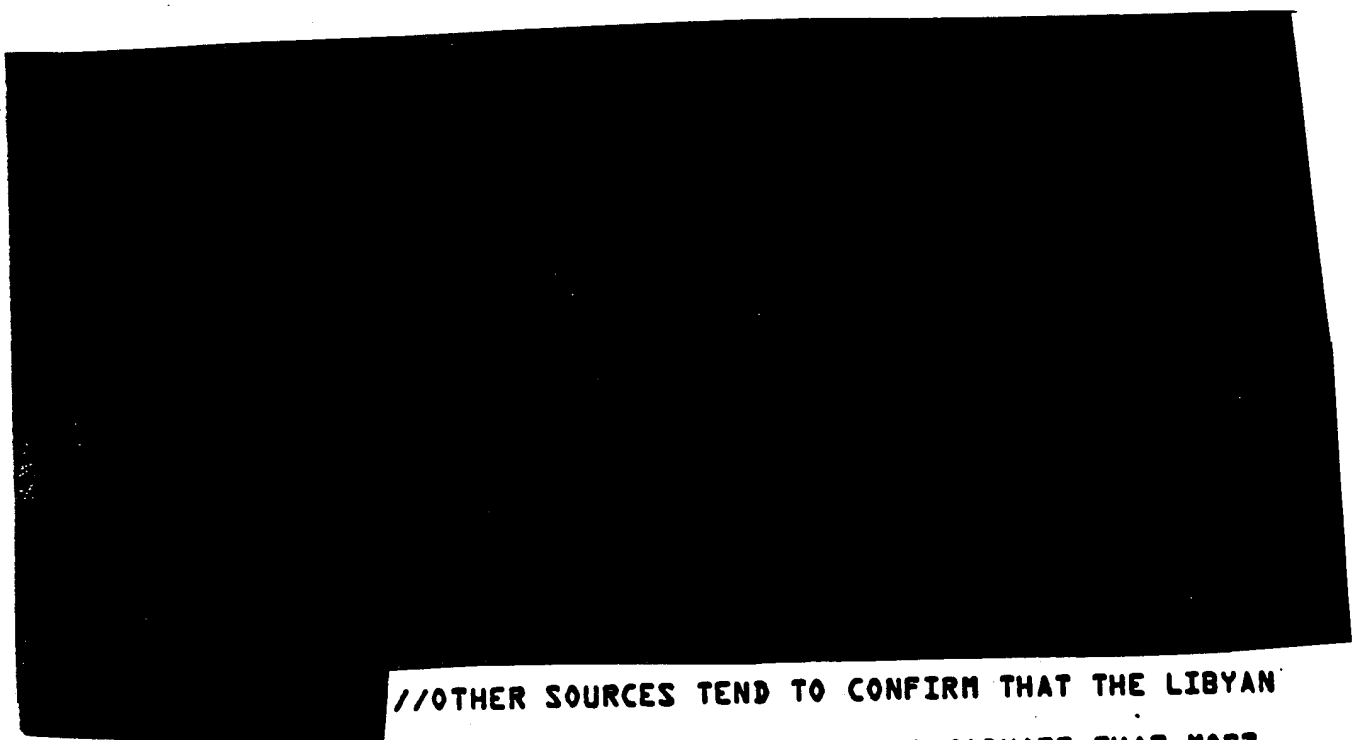
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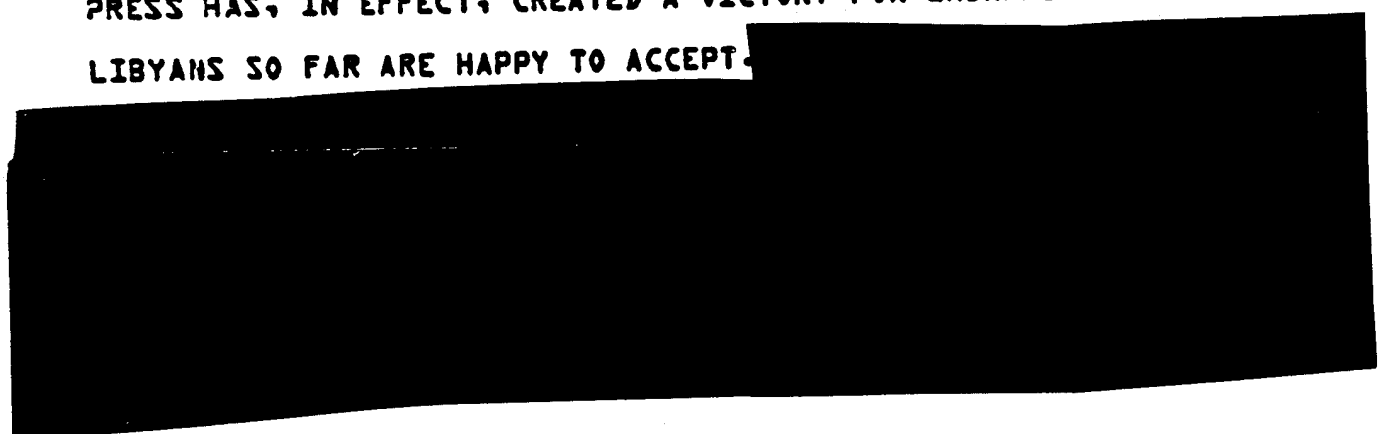
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//OTHER SOURCES TEND TO CONFIRM THAT THE LIBYAN
 PRESS HAS, IN EFFECT, CREATED A VICTORY FOR QADHAFI THAT MOST
 LIBYANS SO FAR ARE HAPPY TO ACCEPT.



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//WE DOUBT THAT QADHAFI WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP HIS PEOPLE FROM KNOWING THE EXTENT OF LIBYAN LOSSES FOR VERY LONG, ALTHOUGH THE LIBYANS HAVE IGNORED EGYPTIAN ACCOUNTS OF THE SITUATION AND HAVE LITTLE ACCESS TO OTHER INFORMATION SERVICES.//Y

//THE LIBYAN PEOPLE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE TOO CONCERNED ABOUT THE DAMAGE AND EQUIPMENT LOSSES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD WERE INFLICTED BY EGYPTIAN SURPRISE ATTACKS. THEY DID, HOWEVER, PROTEST THE HIGH CASUALTY RATE SUFFERED BY LIBYAN "PEACEKEEPING TROOPS" IN LEBANON LAST YEAR, AND THEIR CURRENT ENTHUSIASM MAY DAMPEN CONSIDERABLY AS NEWS OF CASUALTY FIGURES SPREADS. THE EGYPTIANS CLAIM THE LIBYANS LOST CLOSE TO 500 SOLDIERS, ALTHOUGH THIS FIGURE PROBABLY IS EXAGGERATED.Y

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3. USSR-EGYPT-LIBYA: [REDACTED] IN THE FIRST OFFICIAL SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE FIGHTING BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA, SOVIET PRESIDENT AND PARTY LEADER BREZHNEV TEPIDLY REMARKED ON TUESDAY THAT HE HAD "RECEIVED WITH CONCERN" THE NEWS OF HOSTILITIES IN SOME AREAS OF AFRICA. TUESDAY'S IPRAVDA ALSO CARRIED A STATEMENT BY THE SEMI-OFFICIAL SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE THAT CAREFULLY CRITICIZED EGYPT'S MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST LIBYA, BUT AVOIDED LABELING EGYPT AS THE AGGRESSOR. THESE STATEMENTS INDICATE THAT THE SOVIETS WANT TO AVOID ANY FURTHER DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT.4

████████████████████ SINCE THE HOSTILITIES LAST WEEK BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA. SOVIET COMMENTARY HAS BEEN FAR LESS SUPPORTIVE OF LIB-

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YAN PRESIDENT QADHAFI THAN IT WAS DURING TWO OCCASIONS IN THE PAST YEAR WHEN THE THREAT OF HOSTILITIES EXISTED. BREZHNEV'S REMARKS ON TUESDAY WERE PARTICULARLY WEAK AND PRAVDA'S USE OF A STATEMENT BY THE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE STRONGLY INDICATED THAT MOSCOW DID NOT WANT TO ANTAGONIZE THE EGYPTIANS. AT NO POINT DURING THE FIGHTING HAS THERE BEEN ANY SOVIET CRITICISM OF SADAT PERSONALLY.Y

THE MILITARY CLASHES OVER THE WEEKEND DID NOT EVEN KEEP THE SOVIETS FROM USING EGYPT'S NATIONAL DAY TO CALL FOR A NORMALIZATION OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. SOVIET ATTENDANCE AT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY RECEPTIONS IN MOSCOW WAS NORMAL, AND THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS CONVEYED ANY ADVERSE REACTION TO THEIR EGYPTIAN HOSTS.Y

THE MILD HANDLING OF THE EGYPTIANS SUGGESTS THAT MOSCOW, IN ADDITION TO TRYING TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER DETERIORATION IN ITS RELATIONS WITH CAIRO, IS ANXIOUS TO STABILIZE STATE-TO-STATE CONTACTS IN ORDER TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE POLITICKING FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SO-

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VIETS PRESUMABLY REALIZE THAT THEY CANNOT HOPE TO PLAY A MEANINGFUL PART IN SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS AS LONG AS THEIR RELATIONS WITH EGYPT ARE IN DISARRAY. [REDACTED]